# Humber, Ford & Stoke Prior Group Parish Council

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Group Parish Council held on Wednesday 18 September 2019 at 7.30pm in Stoke Prior Village Hall**

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| Present: | Cllr Alan Bathurst | Cllr Ken Bemand |
| | Cllr Richard Collins | Cllr Hugh Fowler-Wright |
| | Cllr William Jackson (Chairman) | Cllr Janette Fullwood |
| | Cllr Chris Marston | Cllr Gill Stovold |
| | Cllr Stephanie Wilson | |

With: District Cllr John Harrington and one member of the public.
Officer in attendance: Mr Philip Brown (Clerk and RFO).

**97/19 Apologies for absence**

(a) *Received*: apologies for absence from Cllr Zoe Burge and Cllr Richard Thomas.
(b) ***Resolved***: under Standing Order 10 to excuse Cllr Zoe Burge's absence until the next meeting in November 2019.

**98/19 Declaration of interests and dispensations**

(a) *Noted*: declarations of a Schedule 1 interest from Cllr Alan Bathurst and Cllr Ken Bemand in Minute 116/19(b) (Volka Bridge repairs), as landowners with access to land over the bridge.

(b) ***Resolved***: under Standing Order 25(d) to grant a dispensation to Cllrs Bathurst and Bemand to participate as members of the public for the item concerning repairs to the Volka bridge at this meeting, but not vote on the matter, so that in the public interest, information they possess may be considered by the Council.

**99/19 Minutes of the last meeting**

***Resolved****:* to approve the minutes of the Meeting held on 31 July 2019 subject to correction of Minute 95/19(b) to read "the contents of the letter at (xiii) above…".

**100/19 Matters for report arising from the minutes**, not covered elsewhere on the agenda

Minute 95/19c – Pump advertising
*Noted*: The review of advertising revenue would be considered by the Finance Working Group and at the November 2019 meeting as part of the draft budget.

**101/19 Chairman's announcements**

*Noted:* Thanks to the Clerk and other volunteers from the Council for work restoring the phone kiosk in Risbury, to house the public access defibrillator.

**102/19 Public participation**

No matters were raised other than under specific minutes.

**103/19 Clerk's report**

*Received:* a report from the Clerk (Minutes Annexe 103/19).

**104/19 District Councillor's report**

*Received:* an oral report from Cllr Harrington:
(a) Traffic Regulation Orders were proposed for extending the 50mph speed limit on the A44 at Steens Bridge and a 40mph speed limit on Fairmile, but the Parish Council's request the 50mph limit to be further extended was being treated as an objection and so delaying implementation. He would speak to officers at Herefordshire Council about implementing the TROs.
(b) Priorities were being identified for Herefordshire Council's 2020-21 budget, including renewed funding for the Lengthsman scheme.
(c) The new administration would propose a change from the cabinet system to a hybrid committee system which involved all councillors.
(d) The Council was considering provision of Council houses.

(e) Hereford Transport Package: schemes had been paused for a review of the evidence; some background work would continue following discussion by the Scrutiny Committee. Alternative transport schemes were being investigated including shared-space, light rail and electric buses.
(f) Cllr Harrington was always available to answer queries by phone or email. He answered questions from councillors about the transport options being considered.

**105/19 Planning applications update**

*Reported*: updates on planning applications:

192185/XA2: Land adjoining Croft Gate, Stoke Prior – approval of details reserved by condition for 184225
Conditions concerning materials, wheel-cleaning and drainage were approved on 9 September 2019.

193152/XA2: Land adjacent to Stoke Haven, Stoke Prior – approval of details reserved by condition for 184686
The application was made and published on 9 September 2019.

190897/XA2: Land opposite Old Hall – approval of details reserved by condition for 16350
The application was noted as withdrawn on 13 September 2019.

**106/19 Planning Application 192916: The Luce, Steens Bridge – erection of new farm building to be used as a stock collecting and dispersal shed**

(a) *Received*: the application (circulated 28 August 2019).

(b) *Noted*: no comments were received from residents or the applicant.

(c) ***Resolved***: to submit the following comments to Herefordshire Council: *The Council supports the application as being necessary development of a farm business which will have little visual impact on neighbouring properties, in accordance with Neighbourhood Development Plan HFSP12 (Developing and supporting local businesses).*

**107/19 Appeal against refusal of Planning Application 184541: Land to west of Risbury Cross – Bungalow with new access and incidental outbuilding**

(a) *Received*: the appeal (circulated 6 September 2019).

(b) *Noted*: one comment submitted in advance by a resident, opposing the appeal. All comments submitted for the original planning application would be considered by the Planning Inspector.

(c) ***Resolved***: to submit the following comments to the Planning Inspectorate: *The Council re-iterates its earlier comments opposing the application, and notes that with an imminent planning application for a substantial number of houses on one of the main sites within the Risbury Settlement Boundary, the village and the NDP area will already substantially exceed the targets for new housing development. The Council further notes that the proposed dwelling is more accurately described as a dormer-window two-storey house rather than a bungalow.*

**108/19 Review of policy on granting dispensations under Standing Order 25(d)**

(a) *Received*: a paper from the Clerk (Minutes Annexe 108/19).

(b) ***Resolved*** *following discussion*: that the Council would continue with its usual policy of granting a limited dispensation to councillors to speak as a member of the public concerning a planning application for which they declared an interest, although each application would be considered on its merits. It was in the public interest that the Council had the fullest information available to it about the application and that questions of an applicant were answered in a public and transparent manner.

**109/19 General Financial Matters**

(a) *Received:* a report from the RFO (Minutes Annexe 109/19).

(b) ***Resolved***: to authorise payments as detailed in the RFO report section 3.

(c) ***Resolved****:* to approve spending from the accrued Community Week surpluses up to the total of this, for equipment as agreed by the Community Week Committee, including a gas barbecue and public address system.
*Noted*: by agreement with the Village Hall Committee, these items would be stored in Risbury Village Hall and available for any community-events; the Village Hall would be asked to check rules and insurance concerning storage of any gas bottles.

**110/19 *We don't buy crime* initiative**

(a) *Noted*: the Clerk's Report section 1.

(b) ***Resolved**:* to approve arrangements for the launch and continuation of the initiative as detailed in the report, and to thank the Clerk for his work on this.

**111/19 Petition concerning road safety on A44 at Steens Bridge**

(a) *Received*: a petition from 109 residents of Steens Bridge and others requesting the installation of appropriate traffic calming procedures on or near the junction of the A44 and Humber Close, following a serious accident there on 23 August.

(b) *Noted*: the Clerk's Report section 2, concerning the accident, and also that there had been two further serious accidents on the A44 in that area in the past week. In discussion several suggestions for safety measures were made, including a safety barrier, right-turn lane, police speed monitoring, speed cameras and warning signage. Cllr Harrington would speak to the senior Highways officer.

(c) ***Resolved***, following discussion: to forward the petition to the Highways Authority, strongly endorsing residents' concerns, and asking for an urgent meeting to discuss possible safety measures.

**112/19 The Lamb Inn**

***Resolved***: to send a follow-up letter to the owners of *The Lamb* concerning the Council's interest in purchasing the pub as a community venture, to reinforce that a meeting may afford both sides the opportunity to update their positions.

**113/19 Community-led Housing**

*Noted*: following the presentation made to the Council meeting on 31 July 2019 by HCCLH, an article in the Parish Pump had elicited no interested responses. A community-housing project would be a major undertaking for the Council, with several other initiatives already underway. It was agreed not to take forward any housing project at present.

**114/19 Parish Paths Officers**

(a) *Noted*: the Clerk's Report Section 3.

(b) ***Resolved***: to appoint, reporting to the Clerk: Vicky Fraser as Footpaths Officer for Ford & Stoke Prior parish with Chris Blum and Tim Yair as deputies, and Iain Cholerton as Bridleways Officer for the Group Parish. The Clerk would continue to act as Footpaths Officer for Humber Parish.

(c) *Noted*: access through some bridleway gates was far from ideal, and the Clerk had been endeavouring to persuade landowners to address this, but the legal requirements were minimal. Some residents had commented that signage of paths was inadequate, although waymarkers were placed at all gates and stiles and other locations where this was possible. The Clerk had hoped to produce a booklet with sketch maps of walks, but workload had not yet permitted this.

**115/19 Consultations**

(a) <u>Removal of BT phone kiosks</u>

***Resolved***: to maintain the objection to the proposed removal by BT of the public payphone at Humber Close, Steens Bridge.

**116/19 Correspondence**

(a) <u>Normans Lane traffic</u>

*Reported*: correspondence from a resident concerning the status of Normans Lane and responsibility for maintenance and the safe use of vehicles (Clerk's report section 4.1).

*Noted in discussion*: Normans Lane was a private unregistered lane currently only maintained to bridleway status by Herefordshire Council; owners of vehicles using the lane had shared responsibility for its maintenance and individual responsibility for driving safely, respecting other users including pedestrians and horse-riders. Complete Utilities had damaged the verges and ditches on the lane and made unsatisfactory repairs, which residents could complain about to Herefordshire Council through Balfour Beatty.

(b) <u>Volka Bridge repairs</u>

*Reported:* correspondence from residents and Herefordshire Council concerning responsibility of landowners for repairs to the handrails on Volka Bridge (Clerk's Report section 4.2).

*Reported from Cllrs Bathurst and Bemand*: they disputed Herefordshire Council's position that they and other landowners were responsible for the bridge's maintenance: it was not on any private deeds, Herefordshire Council had in the past contributed 10% towards repairs and would be entirely responsible for providing any new bridge over the river.

*Noted in discussion*: there was a possible risk to the public from the damaged handrails, but it was for Herefordshire Council and the landowners to ascertain responsibility for repairs and any public liability.

(c) Dog noise in Stoke Prior

*Reported*: correspondence from a resident concerning noise of dogs barking in Stoke Prior (see Clerk's Report section 4.3).

(d) 30mph speed limit in Stoke Prior

*Reported*: correspondence from a resident concerning extension of the 30mph speed limit in Stoke Prior (Clerk's Report section 4.4).

*Agreed:* to forward the suggestion to Herefordshire Council.

**117/19 Matters for information and future business**

(a) *Noted:* circulars sent to the Council, and circulated on date shown to councillors by email:

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| (i) | Locality Steward weekly briefings | Weekly |
| (ii) | Herefordshire road closures updates | Weekly |
| (iii) | Rural Services Network bulletins | Weekly |
| (iv) | Herefordshire Rural Hub monthly newsletters | Monthly |
| (v) | Rural Services Network monthly funding digest | Monthly |
| (vi) | Community-led housing information from CCLH | 06/08/19 |
| (vii) | Hereford Transport Package: pause in work | 11/08/19 |
| (viii) | CPRE Campaigns update | 11/08/19 |
| (ix) | Healthwatch Herefordshire e-bulletin | 27/08/19 |
| (x) | Childrens and young people's showcase event 7 Oct | 13/09/19 |
| (xi) | Public vote for Herefordshire's flag | 13/09/19 |
| (xii) | CPRE Campaigns update | 16/09/19 |
| (xiii) | HALC: notice of County Area Meeting re climate emergency 25 Sep | 16/09/19 |

**118/19 Dates of future meetings**

(a) *Noted*: the next scheduled meetings would be Wednesday 20 November 2019 and Wednesday 15 January 2020, at 7.30pm.

(b) *Noted*: the scheduled date of the March meeting (18 March) would have to be amended.

The meeting closed at 9.27pm.

Signed (Chairman) ..... Date .....